

State of California
Business, Transportation and Housing Agency
Department of Transportation

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PROJECT BUSINESS MATTERS
Technical Changes to Previously Approved
Resolution: Waiver 02-06
CTC Meeting: February 28, 2002

Reference No: 2.8a.(2)

Original Signed By
ROBERT L. GARCIA
Chief Financial Officer
February 1, 2002

WAIVER APPROVAL
CTC RESOLUTION G-01-21, STIP GUIDELINES
SECTION 65 – TIMELY USE OF FUNDS

STATE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
WAIVER 02-06

ISSUE

Resolution G-01-21, *STIP Guidelines*, adopted by the California Transportation Commission (Commission) on July 12, 2001, stipulates that funds programmed for Caltrans construction costs are available for allocation only until the end of the fiscal year (FY) identified in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

The Department requests a twenty (20) month time extension for construction allocation from June 30, 2002 to February 29, 2004 in Interregional Improvement Program (IIP) funds for the Butte Route 149 Four Lane Expressway Project. The extension is needed to prepare a more comprehensive environmental document.

SUMMARY

A draft Initial Study/Environmental Assessment (IS/EA) for the Butte 149 widening project was circulated to the public, state and federal agencies from May 15 to June 15, 2001. An IS/EA was prepared to determine whether a Negative Declaration/Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) or an Environmental Impact Report (EIR)/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is needed.

The comments on the draft IS/EA from federal, state and local groups were unanimous in challenging the level of CEQA/NEPA approval. The Department can avoid a lengthy process of defending a legal challenge on a Negative Declaration and FONSI with the preparation of an EIR/EIS.

Drafting the EIR/EIS, public circulation of the draft document, preparation and approval of a final EIR/EIS, and Notice of Determination/Record of Decision would take approximately 12 months. In addition to this, the Right of Way Certification process cannot begin until the environmental document is finished and will take eight months. Therefore, a 20-month extension of the Ready to List date to February 2004 will be needed.

RECOMMENDATION

The Department recommends approval of this project allocation extension request.